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CAPTAIN KID

THE OUTBOARD OVERBOARD MOTOR

























## CAPT, MARVEL HE SPACE LIGHTHOUSE A Ion Iorl Adventure

MAR OUT in the blackness of empty

apace, a light winked like a flickering candle. On and off it blinked in a warring red color that could be seen for millions of miles by any passing space ship.

"The Space Lighthouse;" murmured Lieutenant Jon Jarl of the space police, turning his ship aside thankfully, and thus avoiding the giant black meteor in his path. The black meteor could not be seen at all. reflecting no light. It had apun manacingly through space for area, and many space shina had cracked up against it in times come by.

But finally the Space Lighthouse had been built on it, shining out its warning light to Ion turned on his radio, "Hello there, Poning greeting to the old lighthquae keener. whenever he passed by, "Anything you need that I can drop off? Hello, Pop . . . hello . . . ?"

No answer came back. Jon was puzzled Even if Pop Jaxon was sleeping, his automatie radio signal would wake him. Why didn't he answer? After calling for several minutes, Jon realsed something was wrong! He turned his

ship and headed down to land on the black meteor, near the tail stone lighthouse. Striding into the lighthouse tower. Ion yelled aloud. Only a hollow echo came back. Jon went into Pop Jaxon's living quarters. Peo Jaxon was cone! He had disappeared.

vanished into thin air! What ameging mystery was this? How could a man disappear alf a tensily rock in source, millions of miles from any other world? There was only one answer. Ion went to

the hangar room and saw that the small rocket ship kept there for smergency was rone. "Great comets!" Jon grunted aloud. "He de-

Then Ion found the note lying there, writ-

"I can't stand it any longer!" the note said, "This is the loneliest job in the whole unverse! Sitting here all alone, hour after hour,

ing but silent space all ground. No shins land here. They all smid the meters There's nobody to talk to. There's nothing but exernal ailencel I've just got to leave and visit Earth before I on crazy!" The note was signed-

"So that's it?" murmured Ion, "Poor old guyl The loneliness finally ont him. I'll have to radio headquarters to send a new man Trouble is. Pen will be arrested and isited for deserting an important post like this. I wonder why he left so suddenly, though? I guess he just couldn't stand it another second."

return message was: "You stay on duty at the Space Lighthouse, Lightenant Tarl, A relief man will be sent in a week. That is all." A week? Jon was a bit startled. Bur then

he settled down to his new job, inspecting the lights and seeing that everything was in preser order, "What's so lonely about this?" Ion asked himself, "Pop Jaxon just let his nerves alip. Why, this is sort of quiet and relaxing." It was-for the first twenty-four hours After that, Jon began to fidnet. He listened

to the radio programs from Earth for a while Next he read soms of Jaxon's books. Then he took a short walk around the meteor. But three days later he was paring the floor lika a cared snimal. "Nobody to talk to!" be grated alond, just to hear his own voice in the dead aflence. "I'll say it's the loneliest job in the universe!" But Jon took hold of himself. After all.

he could stand it for only a week without cracking up as Pop Jaxon bad! Ion was slad when suddenly the automatic alarm hell ranggiving him something to do. The lights were out in the tower! And also Jon could see a huge space liner coming along. If he didn't get the lights on in time, the liner might

Ion raced up the winding stairs to the tower. Hastily he examined all the wires and commercians to the assemin batteries. Closes and closer came the epace liner! It was headed straight for the black meteor!

At last Jon found the broken wire and held it toresther with his hare heads, ignoring the struggled against his ropes, but they were

At last Jon found the broken wire and held it together with his bare heads, ignoring the sperks that almost burned him. The blazing atomic lump aprang on, choosing its weening out into space. Barely in time, the space liner

our min space away safely.
"Whewer" Jon was still absking when he went below. But now, the ship gone and the excitement over, monotony and boredom set

in again, now come any master ware in again, tower come and the middle of apoce? It was marder!

Suddenly, Jon enapped his fingers. Eagerly, he rummaged in the storage room and set to work in the small but well-equipped workshop.

work in the email our wein-represent the Jon begen building something out of ebloy metel parts, whistling as he worked, all his beredom gone! "This won't be the lonellest job in the uni-

"The wort of the intensity job in the onverse any more!" he sang out.

Three days later it was done, but suddenly there was another internaption—a much grim-

mer one! Jon arm the chip passing, but gave it no second glence, not accing it turn and come down for a landing. The next thing Jon knew, three hard-feed men rushed in the dost, ray gune in band. Expecting no one to visit him, Jon bed put hie gune edife.

He was caught fist-footed! The three men were space crocke that Jon knew from the police files! "Creter Calhoun!" Jon said to the leader. "But what do you want here? There's nothing

valuable on this worthless meteor for you to steel."
"No, copper," greted back the space criminal, "but there are lots of ships cerrying veluable corgoes out in space. In fact, one of shown is due neat here in a few minutes—a

them is due past here in a few minutes—a feelghter with a cerpo of gold from Jupiter! What if the lighthouse light went out? Whet it the ship cracked up here, killing all its crew? Get it, copper?"
"Then you could pick up the gold!" Jon

gasped. "But you wouldn't pull a morderous echeme like that, killing a dozen men!" Celboun only lecced as the men tied Jon up helphasely. Then Calhoun pulled the master switch. Up above, the lamp went out! The meteor floated black and unlighted in space. Ton's horrified ever could see the lights of

He struggled against his ropes, but they were too tight. All he could do was wait and ese the ship smach to bits! But then a strange look came late Jon's feee. "Help? he underly yelled cloud. "Come

and help me, Petet"

Celhoun grinned. "What's the matter, Copper? Gone crary? You know there's nobody clse on this space lighthouse to help you. We

you came in his place. How can anybody help you?"

But strengely, three was a clump, clump of heavy feet from the workroom. The criminels' turned in europtes as the door burst open. Stertled chirless came from their lips as they fired at the powerful Signer there. But the

figure ignored their ray gun blasts end stalked toward them. "A robot!" screeched Celboun. "Yee, the robot I constructed in my spare

time?" yelled Jon. "Pete, greb the crooks and untle me?"

Obediently, the robot ceized and tied two

Obediently, the robot ceiled and tied two of the crooks, but Celboun wrenched free and ren out to his elit, However, enother figure bounded after birn-Lieutenant Jon Jari of the Space Police! It we a phort but merry fight.

Even se Jon dregged Calhoun back in and

tied him up, enother small ship issded on the metter and en elderly man strede in. "Pop Jaxen!" excleimed Jon. "You cama back?"

GWES, the lighthouse keeper said cointribely. It railined it was wrong to desert my post to I came back on my own, even if it is the loralitast job in the unleves... "It wou't he any more," Jon grinned. "You've going to have combody to talk to bereath-He leaft humen, but almost. Pop. I went you to meet your pall and commanion from now

the robot!"

Follow JON JARL's exploits in future issues of CAPTAIN MARVEL ADVEN-



## CAPTAIN A PAST PUZZLE



















